

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE
WOOD RIVER WATERSHED ADVISORY GROUP
TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2004
CAREY, ID**

Chairman Daryle James called the meeting to order with the following in attendance: Carol Blackburn, Bob Simpson, Chuck Pentzer, Lynn Harmon, Clint Krahn, Bryan Ravenscroft, Vernon Ravenscroft, Kevin Davidson, Mark Dallon, Joe Schwarzback, Jo Lowe, Bill Davis, Ron Chapman, DEQ representative Jennifer Claire and Secretary Dana Sturgeon.

Minutes for April 27, 2004 were reviewed. The minutes were changed to reflect Daryle being in Iowa rather than in Ohio. Carol made the motion to approve the minutes as written with the one correction. Lynn seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote unanimous.

WAG WEB SITE:

The WAG web site was discussed. Joe said that he had sent information on lakes within Camas County to Roger Parker for inclusion on the web site. DEQ has also sent link sites. Jo has some BMP's to put on the web and also the mission statement. The BMP's are based on information put out by the University of Idaho Extension office in Jerome.

Chuck suggested that the 319 project on Rock Creek might also have some information on BMP's.

Daryle had visited with Roger and the website is up and running but needs some more substance. Jo said that the mission statement needs added verbiage and coordinated efforts. Bryan suggested the WAG Board review it before it is posted on the website. She will e-mail it to Dana for distribution.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

Jo presented a draft copy of an information flyer to landscapers and local water users. She begins with a statement concerning understanding and following the best management practices (B.M.P.'s) for lawn and garden care. This is becoming increasingly important due to population growth in the watershed as well as ongoing drought conditions.

She goes on to address the following:

1. Water Management
2. Fertilizer Use
3. Pest Management
4. Erosion Control

Bryan expressed that watering 2 or 3 times a week is too often when we are experiencing a drought. He felt watering should be limited to 1 or 2 times a week.

Carol mentioned that the Master Gardener's are also planning on putting out a newsletter to landscapers about water conservation.

WATER ISSUES:

After the water discussion at the last meeting, Vern had visited with someone from Jerome that felt their office and probably their agency, would eventually endorse the concept of determining an intelligent, acceptable and reasonable base flow after proper study and enactment. Vern felt the WAG Board might want to adopt a reasonable base flow and then encourage the use of excess water for water aquifer recharge. The newspaper had an article about a legislative meeting held in Boise, which discussed Idaho Power and the Bureau of Reclamation. Because of the fishery commitments, they oppose ground water in principle. The reasoning Idaho Power used was their commitments at Swan Falls.

Because of the water concerns he has, Vern made a motion for the WAG to adopt a statement, in effect and in concept, that the WAG feels there is merit in pursuing the idea of establishing a base flow, and then encouraging and doing what we can to assist the recharge in excess of that base flow provided that the base flow is based upon proper analysis of existing water rights, environmental needs and the stable use of the base flow portion of the flow. Clint seconded the motion. Question called for. Discussion: Jo asked Vern if he thought it needed further study before the WAG should support it, since it needs to be more defined. She felt it was more in the realm of WIR than in water quality. Vern said that before we could arrive at a base flow there would need to be studies, analysis of water rights and interagency/interest group's negotiations. He thought that the motion conveyed that concept. Daryle felt the motion was not establishing a base flow but being supportive of it. Lynn was concerned that we use any language incorporating "base flow" without getting some firm water rights situations established because the WAG is not here to establish base flow. He felt there was a conflict with using language of minimum flows or base flows in concept because it could infringe on water rights. Lynn said Vern made a good point that it would have to be researched, but felt WIR would need to be involved in that area so we would not infringe or cause any conflict.

Daryle asked Vern if there was a benefit with going ahead with the motion at this time. Vern felt this item would probably be one of the major issues at the next session of the legislature. Presently Idaho Power, Bureau of Reclamation and the salmon fishery groups are against recharge. Also ground water pumpers and fish farmers need more water. He does not want to see the concept over looked.

Vern withdrew his motion and made a substitute motion to the effect that the WAG sees merit in the concept of a properly established base flow concept for the solution of the recharge question. And we instruct a committee to be appointed by the Chairman to come up with specific language for our next meeting. Seconded by Clint. Discussion called for. Lynn still expressed concern over base flows and water rights language. He said he supports the concept of recharge but he does not support the language of base flow. He felt it could lead to major problems in years where there is no extra water available. If there is water available for recharge is one thing but to establish a minimum flow or a base flow line that would be carved in the sand would cause problems in short water years. He felt we were leaving a door open to problems establishing a base flow.

Bryan felt like we are using the terms in two different contexts. What Vern is trying to convey is using it in terms of only using it for aquifer recharge above all water rights. Question called for a vote. Jo abstained. Motion carried.

Chairman James appointed Clint Krahn, Lynn Harmon and Vern Ravenscroft to the committee to come up with a written proposal for presentation to the group at the next meeting.

It was reported that the gravity system in the Carey area is moving right along. They are in the process of interviewing engineering firms at this time.

June 22nd is the next meeting in Fairfield at 7:30 p.m. July 27th was set for 7:30 p.m. in Carey. No TAC meeting in June.

Meeting adjourned.

Daryle James, Chairman